

News Release

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Junior Duck Stamp Program Pairs Natural Science with the Arts

Missouri Valley, Iowa - As the season for spring waterfowl migration approaches, this is the perfect time for young people throughout the area to participate in the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. The Junior Duck Stamp program is an opportunity for students, grades K-12, to connect with nature through artistic creation. It's also part of the nationwide competition to select the artwork for the 2013-14 Federal Junior Duck Stamp.

The program encourages young people to combine scientific observation with artistic interpretation to portray native waterfowl in their natural habitats. Artwork entries will be judged on the basis of original design, artistic composition, and suitability for reproduction on a 1"x1.5" stamp. Contests are held in each state; therefore Iowa and Nebraska students need to make sure to submit to their own state coordinator.

Winning entries will be exhibited in an art show at various sites around Nebraska and Iowa this year. The Best of Show winner for each state will enter the national competition, the winner of which will be made into this year's Junior Duck Stamp.

Additional information, including program rules, eligible species, format guidelines, and entry form, are available on line at www.fws.gov/juniorduck. For educators who wish to bring this program into the classroom, a free curriculum guide is also available through the website.

Entries must be postmarked by March 15. Nebraska students should submit entries to Lydia Patrick, Crescent Lake NWR Complex, 115 Railway St, Suite C109, Scottsbluff, NE 69361. She can be reached at 308-635-7851 or e-mail lydia_patrick@fws.gov. Iowa students should submit entries to Doreen Van Ryswyk, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, 9981 Pacific Street, P.O. Box 399, Prairie City, IA 50228. She can be reached 515-994-3400 or e-mail at doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges are located north of Omaha, Nebraska along on U.S. Highway 30 between Missouri Valley, Iowa and along U.S. Highway 75 near Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska. For more information contact 712/388-4800 or email the refuge at desoto@fws.gov. Check our websites, www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/ or www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer_chute/, for refuge updates. Like us on Facebook - search for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges.

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